

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
International application No. PCT/DE 03/00564

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (Substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments):

The description, pages:

1-7 in the originally submitted version

The claims, Nos.:

1-8 in the originally submitted version

The drawings, sheets/fig.:

1/3-3/3 in the originally submitted version

- V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims 1-8

No: Claims

Inventive Step (IS)

Yes: Claims

No: Claims 1-8

Industrial Applicability (IA)

Yes: Claims 1-8

No: Claims

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

see appended sheet

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SUPPLEMENTARY PAGE

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1. The present application does not satisfy the requirements of Article 33 PCT, because the subject matter of Claim 1 and is not based on inventive activity in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

1.1 In addition to the related art EP-A-0 898 087 (D1) already acknowledged in the description, EP-A-0747 604 (D3) must also be regarded as a most proximate related art.

D3 describes (cf. Figures 1, 2) a fastening assembly having a first component (10) featuring a thread-bearing collar (22) and a second component (18) having a keyhole-like cut-out (34) and **having a bolt (24)**, which can be screwed into the thread-bearing collar in such a way that the bolt can be guided through the larger opening of the cut-out (34) with its head (28) and that the head (28) engages behind the smaller opening of the cut-out (34) for fastening (column 3, lines 13-20), the bolt featuring engagement surfaces (30) for a tool at the end of the bolt shank (26) and the head (28) being round,
from which the subject matter of Claim 1 differs in that:

- the head features a smooth surface, and
- the first component features a thread bushing instead of a thread-bearing collar.

1.2 The objective to be achieved by the present invention may thus be regarded as lying in the creation of an alternative to the fastening assembly according to D3 having the same advantages.

1.3 The design approach proposed in Claim 1 of the present invention cannot be regarded as inventive (Article 33(3))

PCT), because the mentioned differences are merely constructional changes of the fastening assembly of D3:

1.3.1 Since it cannot be ascertained from D3 what the surface of the bolthead looks like, i.e. whether it is smooth or not, and since the tool mentioned in D3 definitely only engages with the engagement surfaces provided at the end of the bolt shank so that in D3 there is never any mention of screwing the bolt in by the bolthead (on the contrary, the bolthead is difficult to access in the mounted state - cf. D3, column 2, lines 36-41), one skilled in the art generally knows that a bolthead having a smooth surface is equivalent to the head known from D3 and can be exchanged against it if necessary.

1.3.2 That the first component features a thread bushing instead of the thread-bearing collar of D3 is only one of several obvious possibilities from which one skilled in the art would select according to the circumstances, without an inventive step, to achieve the objective set.

2. The dependent Claims 2-8 do not include any features that, in combination with the features of any claim to which they relate, fulfill the requirements of the PCT with regard to inventive activity. The reasons for this are as follows:

2.1 With regard to Claim 2: cf. D1, column 2, line 56, 57.

2.2 With regard to Claim 3: cf. D1, column 3, lines 31-33.

2.3 With regard to Claims 4 and 5: cf. D1, column 3, lines 26-30.

2.4 With regard to Claim 6: cf. US-A-3,208,328 (D2), Figures

9 and 10.

2.5 With regard to Claims 7 and 8: cf. the device of document EP-A-0 747 604 (D3), especially the parts (36) and (38) (column 3, lines 21-32 and the figures).